

Appl. No. 09/408861

Please amend the following claims. A marked-up version of the changes made may be found in the section following this amendment entitled "Version Showing Claim Changes Made."

Claim ~~31~~<sup>1</sup> (Amended). A method of cooling a person by evaporation, comprising:

providing a multi-layered, liquid-retaining composite material comprising a fiberfill batting material, and hydrophilic polymeric fibers that absorb at least about 2.5 times the fiber's weight in water;

soaking said multi-layered composite in a liquid;

employing said multi-layered, liquid-retaining composite material as a garment or a flat sheet and evaporatively cooling said person.

Claim ~~43~~<sup>9</sup> (Amended). A method of cooling a person by evaporation, comprising:

providing a multi-layered, liquid-retaining composite material comprising:

a filler layer comprising:

a fiberfill batting material and

hydrophilic polymeric particles;

soaking said multi-layered, liquid-retaining composite in a liquid; and

Appl. No. 09/408861

C2 employing said multi-layered, liquid-retaining composite as a garment or a flat sheet and evaporatively cooling said person.

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[ Please add the following claims:

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Claim 66. <sup>129</sup> A method of cooling a mammal by evaporation, comprising:  
providing a multi-layered, liquid-retaining composite material comprising a  
fiberfill batting material, and hydrophilic polymeric fibers that absorb at least about  
2.5 times the fiber's weight in water;  
soaking said multi-layered composite in a liquid;  
employing said multi-layered, liquid-retaining composite material as a garment  
C3 or a flat sheet and evaporatively cooling said mammal.

Claim 67. <sup>26</sup> The method of claim <sup>24</sup> 66, wherein said garment is a shirt, vest,  
pant, or jacket.

Claim 68. <sup>24</sup> The method of claim <sup>24</sup> 66, wherein said soaking occurs for a period  
of 2 to 5 minutes.

Appl. No. 09/408861

27  
Claim 69. The method of claim 66, wherein said fibers are composed of not less than 90 weight percent of acrylonitrile and less than ten weight percent of a water-absorbing resin containing carboxyl groups; and have a degree of swellability of 10-300 cc/g.

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Claim 70. The method of claim 69, wherein said water-absorbing resin has a particle diameter of not larger than 0.5 microns at absolute dryness and is insoluble in water.

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C3 Claim 71. The method of claim 66, wherein said hydrophilic polymeric fibers have an inner layer and an outer layer and said hydrophilic polymeric fibers are composed of not less than 90 weight percent of an acrylonitrile polymer and having disbursed therein less than ten weight percent of water-absorbing resin particles containing at least one carboxyl group represented by  $-COOX$ , wherein X is H,  $NH_4$  or an alkali metal.

30  
Claim 72. The method of claim 66, wherein said hydrophilic polymeric fibers are blended with said fiberfill in a range of from about 15 percent to 75 percent with the fiberfill.

Appl. No. 09/408861

Claim ~~73~~<sup>31</sup> A method of cooling a mammal by evaporation, comprising:  
providing a multi-layered, liquid-retaining composite material comprising:  
a filler layer comprising:

a fiberfill batting material and

hydrophilic polymeric particles;

soaking said multi-layered, liquid-retaining composite in a liquid; and

employing said multi-layered, liquid-retaining composite as a garment or a flat sheet and evaporatively cooling said mammal.

(3) Claim ~~74~~<sup>32</sup> The method of claim ~~73~~<sup>31</sup>, wherein said hydrophilic particles are capable of expanding 100 to 300 times from their original dry size to a wet size responsive to being soaked in liquid.

Claim ~~75~~<sup>33</sup> The method of claim ~~73~~<sup>31</sup>, wherein said hydrophilic particles have a volume when dry of between 0.1 to 2 cubic millimeters.

Claim ~~76~~<sup>34</sup> The method of claim ~~73~~<sup>31</sup>, wherein the fiberfill batting material comprises at least one of a woven aramid fiber or a polybenzamidazole fiber.

Appl. No. 09/408861

Claim ~~77~~<sup>8</sup> The method of claim ~~31~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the multi-layered liquid-retaining composite further comprises a conductive layer and a retainer layer, both of which communicate with the fiberfill batting material.

Claim ~~78~~<sup>35</sup> The method of claim ~~77~~<sup>8</sup>, wherein the conductive layer is provided with a coating that is impervious to liquids, while allowing free passage of gases therethrough.

C<sup>3</sup> Claim ~~79~~<sup>14</sup> The method of claim ~~43~~<sup>9</sup>, wherein the multi-layered liquid-retaining composite further comprises a conductive layer and a retainer layer, both of which communicate with the fiberfill batting material.

Claim ~~80~~<sup>13</sup> The method of claim ~~46~~<sup>12</sup>, wherein the multi-layered liquid-retaining composite further comprises a conductive layer and a retainer layer, both of which communicate with the fiberfill batting material.

Claim ~~81~~<sup>23</sup> The method of claim ~~47~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein the multi-layered liquid-retaining composite further comprises a conductive layer and a retainer layer, both of which communicate with the fiberfill batting material.